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Date: March 9, 2010

Patent 0-06-165 (16708/US/05)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yerushalmi-Rozen
Serial no.: 10/587,113
Filed: June 25, 2008
Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF DISPERSIONS
OF CARBON NANOTUBES
Examiner: Vickey Marie Nerangis
Art Unit: 1796
Confirmation: 9526

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

Response and Amendment

This response is in reply to the non-final office action mailed on January 29, 2010.

Amendments

1. Please amend claim 1 as shown in the enclosed document, restricting the subject matter to the preferred embodiments.

The instant specification shows that the concentration of the carbon nanotubes may go as high as 10 wt% (line 1 on page 7), and practical lower limit is 5-10 mg/ml, corresponding to 0.5-1.0 wt%, as exemplified in Examples 1-3; the value 5 mg/ml, being represented in Examples 1 and 3, corresponds to 0.5 wt% – which supports the first amendment.

The preferred range of mass ratio of copolymer/nanotubes of 0.1 to 10 is supported at line 20 on page 4.

Claim 16 was amended to incorporate proper Markush language and claim 3 was amended to confirm small bundles are two and three carbon nanotubes per the examiner's request.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102 and §103

2. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Clarke (US 6,878,361). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Clarke. The applicant traverses the rejections, as explained below.

3. The instant invention provides a general way to dispersing carbon nanotubes, which has been a tremendous task attempted in a host of publications. The instant inventors contributed in this field by providing some specific dispersants for dispersing the carbon nanotubes also in WO 02/076888. In that publication (priority of 26 March 2001), the state of art was summarized, including known surfactants like SDS. Generally used surfactants, such as SDS and Triton, enable to suspend some